

# **LHMP ANNEX**

## **City of Millbrae**

### **Introduction**

The City of Millbrae is located on the northern San Francisco peninsula 15 miles south of San Francisco and immediately west of the San Francisco Airport. Millbrae occupies 3.25 square miles of northern San Mateo County, and is part of the nine county areas known as the San Francisco Bay Region. The City has a population of 20,718 people, based on the 2000 census<sup>1</sup>. Last year, the City's budget was \$27 million. The City employs 130 people. The City provides both police and fire services.

### **The Planning Process**

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to the City of Millbrae. The City has a Safety Element to its General Plan last updated in 1998 that includes a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards. In addition, the City routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The City's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the City were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The City participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings. In addition, the City has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Finally, the City provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key City staff met on three occasions to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the City. Staff involved in these meetings included the Park and Recreation Supervisor Director, Building Official, City Administrator, Public Works Director, Public Safety Director and the Community Development Director. At the first meeting, an overview of the Mitigation Plan and what was involved in working through the planning process. The general priorities and appropriate City departments were identified. The second meeting identified preliminary budgets and potential funding sources for strategies designed as "High" priority. The third meeting found the group finalizing the mitigation strategies for review by the City Council. The City provided the opportunity for the public to comment on the DRAFT mitigation strategies at the City Council meeting on April 26, 2005. The resolution adopting the plan and strategies was adopted by the City Council on September 27, 2005. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan when the City next takes the requisite steps to amend its General Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> For complete Census information on this city, see <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/>.

## Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (fault, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, wildfires and drought). These hazards impact this community.

While the City has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the City, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

The City has had a number of landslides in the hills on the east side of the City, including one that damaged 12 homes in 1980. This additional hazard information was included at the City Council meeting held on April 26, 2005.

Information on disasters declared in San Mateo County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The City examined the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 1,996 urban acres in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – CGS fault data shows that the San Andreas fault runs just west of Millbrae, along highway 280.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking - 1,996 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, in large part because the San Andreas fault that runs just west of the City along highway 280.
- ◆ Earthquake –induced landslides – the California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the City of Millbrae. However, because few areas have been mapped as landslides, this hazard is viewed similar to that posed by weather-related hazards.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction - 367 acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – While tsunamis may have a small impact on the City of Millbrae along the San Francisco Bay, the mapping of the inundation area has not been completed at this time.
- ◆ Flooding - 57 acres are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional 1 acres are in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides - 1,120 acres are in areas of existing landslides.
- ◆ Wildfires - 13 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat (because of the urban nature of the City), but 1,161 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas
- ◆ Dam Inundation - 0 acres are subject to dam inundation.
- ◆ Drought – all 1996 acres are subject to drought.

The City also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 40 miles of roadway in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – CGS fault data shows that the San Andreas fault runs just west of Millbrae, along highway 280.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – 64 miles of roadway are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ Earthquake –induced landslides – the California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the City of Millbrae. However, there is a few roads in the City that would be affected.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction - 12 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ Tsunamis – While tsunamis may have a small impact on the City of Millbrae along the San Francisco Bay, the mapping of the inundation area has not been completed at this time.
- ◆ Flooding - 2 miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional one mile is in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides – 35 roads are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ Wildfires – 2 miles of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, 35 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation - 0 mile of roadway is in an area subject to dam inundation.
- ◆ Drought – is not a hazard for roadways.

Finally, the City examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at

<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – CGS fault data shows that the San Andreas fault runs just west of Millbrae, along highway 280.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – 2 critical health care facilities, 7 schools, and 60 city-owned facilities are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ Earthquake –induced landslides – the California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the City of Millbrae.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction - while no critical health care facilities are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility, 7 schools and 60 city-owned facilities are located in these areas;
- ◆ Tsunamis – While tsunamis may have a small impact on the City of Millbrae along the San Francisco Bay, the mapping of the inundation area has not been completed at this time.
- ◆ Flooding – no critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in either the 100-year flood plain or in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides - while no critical health care facilities are in areas of existing landslides, 7 schools, 58 city-owned facilities are located in these areas;
- ◆ Wildfires – 2 health care facilities, 7 schools, and 60 city-owned critical facilities are located in the Wildfire Threat area, while 2 critical care facilities, 4 schools, and 42 city-owned critical facilities in Wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation - no critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in an area subject to dam inundation;

- ◆ Drought – Drought will not affect city buildings directly. However, the city does operate water-supply distribution systems.

There have been 3 properties included in the Repetitive Flood Loss report – two within the 100-yr flood plain and 1 outside the flood plain areas of the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

The City plans to work with ABAG during 2005 to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on unreinforced masonry buildings and soft-story apartments located in the City.

Drought, though a potential problem in the City, is not fully assessed. The City will work with ABAG and various water supply agencies on this issue.

The City plans to work with ABAG to develop specific information about the kind and level of damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities, which might result from any of the hazards previously noted. The ABAG Annex states that ABAG will be doing this work in 2005 through early 2006.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the City has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that an earthquake (particularly shaking), flooding, wildfire, and landslides (including unstable earth) pose a significant risk for potential loss.

## **Mitigation Activities and Priorities**

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, City of Millbrae staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of the City Police Chief, Building Official, Public Works Director, Planning Director, Fire Chief, and Assistant City Administrator on February 21, 2005. In addition, representatives of the fire district and school district were invited to this meeting, but chose not to attend. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies - are existing City programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the City Administrator for review. The draft priorities were then provided to the City Council on April 26, 2005. The public was made aware of the process through the airing of the City Council meeting, where a staff report was given which provided an overview of our mitigation draft; minutes to the meeting were made available to the public for review with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities. Finally, the ABAG

website where the information was gathered to submit this annex was posted on the City's website for citizen review and comment. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become an *Implementation Appendix* to the City's *Safety Element*.

In addition, the City examined the hazard exposure information to City-owned critical facilities supplied by ABAG. The City has determined that the combination of construction type, age, and shaking exposure to Fire Station No. 2 is significant. Therefore, the City plans to apply for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant to retrofit this fire station. (The City completed the retrofit of its City Hall in 1998.)

## **The Plan Update and Maintenance Process**

The City Administrator's Office will ensure that monitoring of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of City department heads at least once a year in April. At this meeting, the department heads will focus on evaluating the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The City of Millbrae is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The City Planning Director will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the City again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The public will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated, and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the City will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.